



# *The Blurb*



*Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club*

**60 Years of Public Service, 1949 to 2009**

Volume 59 Number 4

[www.phil-mont.org](http://www.phil-mont.org)

April 2009

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## Phil-Mont Scholarship Fund Update

Since the establishment of Phil-Mont's ham radio scholarship program in 2001, the club has awarded one or more scholarship grants each year to deserving young licensed amateurs pursuing a higher education. This year's grant will mark the eighth year that we have underwritten our annual Claude H. Haring, Jr., W3IIM Memorial Scholarship, honoring the memory of "Jack" Haring, a long-time Phil-Mont member, officer, director, Blurb editor, and webmaster.

A few years ago, our own Mike Taraborrelli, N3MT, who has been a Phil-Mont member since he was 14, and who has served as assistant treasurer for the past six years, wrote the following words for the Blurb: "Speaking from personal experience, I can tell you that the ham radio scholarship program is a very worthwhile endeavor. I was very fortunate to receive a ham scholarship through F.A.R. during each of my four years at Villanova University, from where I graduated in May, 2003. And, I was doubly honored to receive the first Haring Memorial Scholarship awarded by Phil-Mont, in 2002. Not only were the cash grants each year a very big help with my college costs, even more meaningful to me was the feeling of appreciation and encouragement I got from knowing that it was my fellow hams who had put up the money themselves to help me and other young hams trying to get a better education. I hope that the club will not only continue our support of ham radio scholarships, but even consider expanding our participation."

Mike brought our QuickBooks records up-to-date last week, and reported that so far we have received contributions of just over \$1,200 toward this year's scholarship grant, the recipient of which will be announced in June by the Foundation for Amateur Radio's Scholarship Committee...who administer our scholarships without cost to Phil-Mont. Some of this amount came from the sale of ham gear donated to the Fund, and sold at the January Auction-Fest.

A reminder to those hams who may be applying for a ham scholarship grant: **Applications must be submitted and received by F.A.R. by May 1.** Application forms can be downloaded from the F.A.R. website, in pdf format, at [www.foundationforamateurradio.com](http://www.foundationforamateurradio.com), along with complete scholarship information.

Because the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc. is recognized by the I.R.S. as a charitable and educational organization under Section 501-C-3 of the regulations, all contributions to the club, including our Scholarship Fund, are deductible for federal income and estate tax purposes. Saleable ham equipment may also be donated, and is deductible at its fair market value at the time it's gifted.

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## **W3AA/60 needs you! Don't wait another sixty years!**

*Contact any club officer - see page 2 - to select your month*

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| <p><i>The Blurb</i> is published monthly by and for the members of The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, Inc., whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. <b>Copying and quoting</b> is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs. Requests should be sent to the Editor. <b>Subscriptions</b> are available to non-members for \$12, addressed to the Treasurer.</p> <p><b>Editor:</b> Rick DeVirgiliis <b>ND3B</b><br/>nd3b@arrl.net 215-908-7225</p> <p><b>Club Archivist:</b> Gwen Patton <b>NG3P</b><br/>ng3p@arrl.net 610-630-9862</p> <p><b>Labels and mailing:</b> <b>WB3KOJ &amp; WB3KOH</b></p> <p><b>Submissions deadline:</b> All copy must be in the hands of the Editor by the 20th of the previous month.</p> | <p><b>Directors:</b></p> <p><b>W3AOK (09)</b><br/><b>WA3KIO (09)</b><br/><b>N3XKE (09)</b><br/><b>N3MT (10)</b><br/><b>KB2ERL (10)</b><br/><b>KB3IV (10)</b><br/><b>NS3K (A)</b></p>  | <p><b>Contact Phil-Mont: P.O. Box 88</b><br/><b>Abington, PA 19001</b><br/><a href="http://www.phil-mont.org">http://www.phil-mont.org</a><br/>Webmistress: Maggie K3XS<br/>k3xs@arrl.net</p> <p><b>For club information:</b> Contact any club officer, or the repeaters listed below. Address or club directory changes and articles for the membership e-mail list should be sent to: wb3koj@comcast.net</p> |
|   | <p><b>Sunday Morning Net Schedules</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>2 Meter/ 70cm Net</b>..... at 0930L on W3QV repeater</li> <li>• <b>10-on-10 Net</b> ..... at 1000L 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM)</li> <li>• <b>75 meter Net</b> ..... at 1020L 3.993 MHz LSB</li> <li>• <b>ARES</b> at 2100L on the W3QV repeater</li> </ul> |  |

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|--|--|---|--|
| <p><b>Committees</b></p> <p>Archives: NG3P<br/>Audit: NS3K<br/>Awards: open<br/>Blurb folding: WB3KOJ &amp; WB3KOH<br/>Directory: WB3KOJ</p> | <p>DX: N3MT<br/>Emerg. Coord: K3HWE<br/>Field Day: KE3QB<br/>Internet: K3XS<br/>Membership: N3XKE<br/>Net Control: KB3IV<br/>Publicity: W3RM</p> | <p>Program: Club VP<br/>Public Service: KE3QB<br/>Refreshments: W3AOK<br/>Repeater: W3AOK<br/>Skywarn: WX3PHI<br/>Sunshine: N3GLU</p> | <p>TVI: W3VVS<br/>VE Program: NS3K<br/>W3AA Trustee:<br/>WU3I<br/>Welcome: N3UBY<br/>Youth: N3MT</p> |
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***All visitors are welcome!***

The club meets at 7:30 PM on the *second* non-holiday Wednesday each month except July and August at **Roxborough Memorial Hospital, 5800 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19128**  
Maps and directions are available at [www.phil-mont.org](http://www.phil-mont.org)

**License Examinations** are held on the fourth **non-holiday Thursday** each month at

**Community Ambulance Association, 1414 E. Butler Pike, Ambler PA 19002**

Registration begins at 7:00 P.M. Applicants should contact Jim McCloskey NS3K at 215-275-2979 or [jmccloskey@msn.com](mailto:jmccloskey@msn.com) for the latest information.

**Club Stations W3QV/R: The Jim Spencer Memorial Repeater System**

Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA **Trustee: W3RM**

**147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz 444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz**

Reach us on EchoLink through WU3I-L

**W3EM: Field Day/special event station Trustee: W3VVS**

***The Officers***

**President:** WU3I Steve Hoch, 546 Monastery Ave, Philadelphia PA 19128 [wu3i@arrl.net](mailto:wu3i@arrl.net)

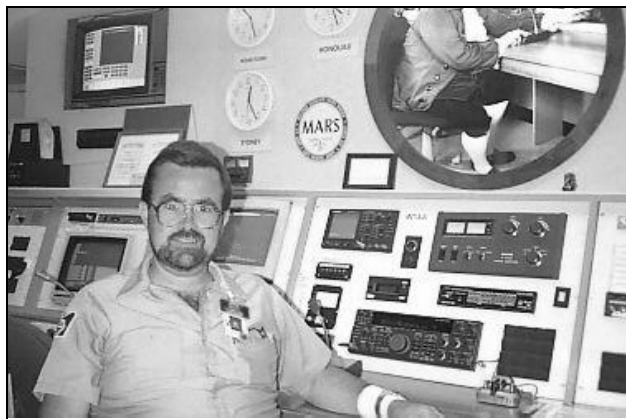
**Vice President:** N3QV Eric D. Marano, PO BOX 233, Skippack PA 19474 [n3qv@arrl.net](mailto:n3qv@arrl.net)

**Secretary:** W3STW Al Tribble [wstw@juno.com](mailto:wstw@juno.com)

**Treasurer:** W3RM Richard A. Moll [roger.mike@verizon.net](mailto:roger.mike@verizon.net)

**Asst. Treasurer:** N3MT Michael P. Taraborrelli [michaelmt\\_1999@yahoo.com](mailto:michaelmt_1999@yahoo.com)

## The Prez Sez...



Congratulations to our editor on his upgrade and new call. Field Day ordering is underway, check with Carmen KE3QB and place your order early. Here it is April and I am counting the days to go on vacation. By the time you read this the Timonium Hamfest will be a memory and I hope to have sold a few items myself. The first quarter of the year has come and gone and we still have 9 months of operation of W3AA/60 and hope YOU have a chance to operate as a Special Event Station. It's antenna time so please **BE CAREFUL OUT THERE!** I know how much you can suffer from not being as careful as you need to be. Hope to see you all at the Meeting.

*de Steve, WU3I*



On February 26th we had 9 candidates take a total of 14 elements. We ended up with 6 new Techs and 3 upgrades to General.

On March 14th we had 15 candidates take a total of 23 elements. We ended up with 7 new Techs, 3 upgrades to General, and one individual *who started with no license and walked out an Extra.*

We had 7 students from Mount St Joseph Academy who all earned their Tech licenses.

*de Jim, NS3K*



## April Birthdays

- 01 Gene Pressler – W3ZXV
- 05 Rob Moore – N2RM
- 06 Andrew Furlong KC2PMW
- 07 David Staples - KB3HIU
- 08 Jackie Chedeville (XYL W3GQD)
- 15 Joan Clifford (XYL W3UY)
- 22 Susan Hoch (XYL W3UI)
- 28 Gwen Patton - NG3P
- 30 Al Kaufmann - K3ZMJ

## Membership Stats

At press time P.M.R.C. had:  
 87 Full Paid Members  
 8 Family Members  
 2 Youth Members  
 2 Honorary Members  
 1 Pending Member(S)

## 2009 DIRECTORY

With this *Blurb* **MEMBERS** have received the 2009 PMRC Directory. If there are any errors in your listing please let me know (wb3koj@comcast.net) and the corrections will be printed in this column next month. Your revised listing will also appear in the Fall supplement.

## ***From the Secretary***

### ***PMRC BoD Meeting - March 4th, 2009***

Club President Steve, WU3I called the meeting to order at 1955 hours, attending were Bill W3AOK, Fred WA3KIO, Bob KB3ERL, Ed KB3IV, Al W3STW and Gene N3XKE.

Steve reports that Club finances are in order.

Membership Chairman Gene, reports Chris N3CB, Caitlin W3CJB and Ralph K3FXR have applied for Club membership, the Board passed a motion to accept the applications. Gene says he is designing a Club QSL card, and will have a sample for us to see soon.

Ed, Net Control Chairman, reports net control duty assignments are working satisfactorily, however Ed says he's still looking for more members to get involved.

Bill, W3QV Repeater Chairman, reminds us the Club still has to refurbish the repeater shed and install an antenna. Bill says efforts to complete these tasks will resume when the weather conditions improve.

The Board discussed a date and place to have a Club Banquet in recognition of the Club's sixtieth year of organization. Stay tuned to the Blurb and W3QV.

The BoD approved Sam's KF3G, suggestion to hold a "tech session" (see the 02/09 Blurb general meeting minutes) as an agenda item for future Club general meetings. Sam will be contacted by a Board member to get details; the allotted time for this project would be an estimated twenty minutes.

Steve reminds us that more serious thought and effort from more members needs to be expended to support the programs part of the general meetings.

A motion to adjourn was passed at 2050 hrs.

### ***PMRC General Meeting - March 11th, 2009***

Many thanks to the Club's refreshments committee chairman, however, after setting up the equipment for this evening's program, I retreated to the rear of the meeting hall to down a cool one and take a cookie or two only to find there was nothing left to munch on and even less to drink...seriously though, many thanks to the refreshments team.

For sixty years during its monthly meetings the Club has been treated to a very nice spread of things to eat and drink. Think about it, have you ever attended a general meeting where it was said that there are no refreshments tonight because of bad weather. If you don't think a lot of effort has been expended doing this...you try the next sixty years. Forthwith, Club President Steve, WU3I, called the meeting to order at 2000 hours.

Our Treasurer Dick, W3RM, reported on the Club's financial status and the need to support the scholarship fund. Please contact Dick and pledge your support to this very worthy cause, contact information may be found on page 2 of the Blurb.

Net Control Chairman Ed, KB3IV, says he is still looking for volunteers to run the Sunday morning nets.

Carmen, KE3QB, reminds us to support this years MS walks, and informs us that he is taking orders for Field Day pins. Membership Chairman Gene, N3XKE, displayed a "Tee" shirt he designed for this year's Field Day. The membership approved Gene's design, to wit, orders for the Field Day shirt are now being taken. Contact information for Carmen and Gene may be found on page two of the Blurb and in the Club Directory.

Gene also reports that on March 4<sup>th</sup> 2009 the BoD approved the applications for Club membership from Chris, N3CB, Caitlin, W3CJB and Ralph, K3FXR, congratulations to them, from the membership. Greetings, from the membership to Pat

(xyl of Bill, W3RED), Keiko, KB3SJT and John KB3SJS.

Thanks to Ralph, K3FXR and Dick for using W3AA/60 during the months of April and May respectively. Also Blurb Editor Rick has changed his call from KB3JWK to ND3B.

Details on recognition of our sixtieth year of organization are shaping up to be a mid day festivity held at an eatery yet to be identified...stay tuned to the Blurb and W3QV repeater.

The program for the evening featured a short demonstration and brief discussion about PSK31 presented by Al W3STW. Al approached Sam KF3G, to be the chairperson that would develop a technical session that would be a part of future general meetings; the first project building kits that would send and receive PSK31 ... stay tuned.

*de Al W3STW, PMRC Secretary*

**Sunday morning Net Control stations still needed.**

**Ed, KB3IV, awaits your call!**

## **The Radio Stores series continues...**

### **ALMO RADIO**

#### **New Kid on the Block**

by Bob Thomas, W3NE

What does a politician do when asked to comment on a subject he knows nothing about? He changes the subject! While I am not a politician, in the interest of full disclosure I have to admit I remember almost nothing about the Almo Radio store in Philadelphia. However, there was a unique event that directly linked Almo with the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, and I do have a good recollection of that. Read on.

Almo Radio didn't come to Philadelphia until the late 'fifties, but they hit the ground running.

Their main store was on Arch Street near twelfth, a generic radio store of the day featuring high fidelity components, test equipment, amateur and SWL gear, repair parts and the first vestige of the Japanese electronics onslaught. Although new, they lost no time focusing on the local amateur market, and what better way to publicize interest in hams than to sponsor an exhibition involving participation by ham radio clubs? The *Almo Show*, as it became known, was held in a West Philadelphia convention facility – I don't remember exactly where, although it was somewhere near the University of Pennsylvania.

The first show was announced with plenty of fanfare and it attracted all the region's major amateur radio clubs as well as suppliers and manufacturers of electronic components and amateur equipment. Each club was allotted space along the sides of a spacious room for a booth to display their specialty, and these were interspersed with booths for manufacturers of ham radio equipment and components. Phil-Mont received an invitation to participate which we eagerly accepted. As luck would have it, our assigned space was by itself at one end of the room. It was only natural that our exhibit should be put in the hands of Jay Gaul, W3IM, a window dresser and commercial artist of exceptional talent. It was left up to Jay to design and build an exhibit with a mobile radio theme. Nobody in the club could have had an inkling, though, of the blockbuster display Jay would come up with!

Although unrelated to this story, W3IM was a well known mobile CW operator who used to tool around his Lehigh Valley sales territory during the day between client calls making mobile contacts on 40 meter CW with a homemade "sideswiper" key mounted on a clipboard strapped to his right leg. A sideswiper is best described as a horizontal key, something like a bug without automatic dots, not too much different than a simplified \$400 paddle of today, except Jay's prosaic lashup used a plain kitchen knife as its basic part. It looked like the dickens, but he sure had fun and lots of success making mobile CW QSOs!



Not long after the meeting authorizing Phil-Mont participation in the Almo Show, I got a call from Jay asking me to come over to his house. When I arrived at Jay's, I could hardly believe my eyes, for there, lying on his front lawn, was the entire center section of a Crosley automobile, from the fire wall back to the windshield "A" posts and a 9" section of the roof. All the miscellaneous parts were there too: dashboard, speedometer and gauges, steering column and steering wheel, and glove box, all scattered around the body.

The Crosley was the first American minicar, the first in the U.S. to use an overhead camshaft and disc brakes. It had an 80" wheelbase, ran on 12" tires, had a 38 HP engine, could barely make 65 mph, but it got 50 mpg. The car had ardent fans, and is still a collector's car. Crosley: where are you now when we need you? -- even though the U.S. Congress would not approve of you.

Jay took the body section to a repair shop where it was sandblasted and painted Sexy Red. We then made side supports from two 2x2 wood poles that held the car body so the windshield was at just the right height for someone standing at the steering wheel to look ahead as if sitting in the car. Behind the posts, we constructed a light weight box, closed on the floor and open at the top. It was about 6-ft wide at the back and had 6-ft high sides that were about 8-ft deep (understand, this is all from a fading memory). Jay then painted a street scene inside the box with perspective so, from the driver's standing position, there was a road leading into the distance ahead with curbs, sidewalks, street lights and a variety of stores along each side. A flood light at the top of each front post illuminated the scene for stark realism. Jay painted people strolling along the sidewalks, but his *piece de resistance* -- a typical W3IM masterpiece of humor -- was a fireplug at the curb with a small dog, hind leg raised, ready to do the needful.

Many hands helped move the exhibit from Jay's home to the convention room and prepare it for the opening. The whole operation went without a hitch -- this was Phil-Mont, after all! A complete battery-powered mobile ham station was installed in the

Crosley body and an 8-ft whip on spring mount was bolted prominently on the car's cowl. For the life of me I cannot remember what equipment we used, but it was probably an early Elmac AM transmitter and a Gonset converter feeding the car radio. A QQH Motorola hand mike hung from the dashboard. The receiver sprang to life, and W3RQZ/Exhibit Mobile was in business!

As judging was about to start, I left the exhibit and drove a few blocks away, to wait for a CQ on 29.493 Mc., the PMRC net frequency. When the time came, we had a solid QSO that, along with the authentic operational mobile rig and fantastic street panorama, clearly set the judges on their ears. It goes without saying that Phil-Mont won the \$100 First Prize hands-down for the best exhibit in the show. In fact, we did it again the next year and the year after that, by which time Almo management must have concluded there was not much more to be gained from contests.

Their shows did help to achieve Almo's objective in terms of establishing a ham customer base and putting Almo on the map as a major amateur radio dealer. Having said that, however, there still was one David among the city's radio store Goliaths: It was a store where flash and pizzazz were, to say the very least, totally absent; a memorable place that was the ultimate destination of just about every active ham in the region. That's for next time.

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*The following Radio Amateur has applied for membership in PMRC*

Ralph C. Germanotta - K3FXR - Ralfy  
1537 Porter Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19145  
Phone- Home: 267-228-6013 Work: 215-465-2396  
DOB: 8/1/65  
License Class: General Exp: 3/25/2019  
Occupation: Automotive  
ARRL: Life member  
Email: k3fxr@arrl.net

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**Stop by 28.480 any night at 2000L and meet Kurt, NN3C and other local 10M enthusiasts.**

*I'm passing this on from Steve. -ed.*

The Penn-Del ARC is has a couple of special events coming up soon. Any assistance you could give us in advertising these would be appreciated.

Best Regards,  
Hal Frantz KA3TWG  
President, Penn-Del ARC  
NWS Delco Skywarn County Coordinator

Advanced Skywarn training -

[www.DelcoSkywarn.net](http://www.DelcoSkywarn.net)

A single, day - long session to get your license -  
[www.PennDelARC.org](http://www.PennDelARC.org)

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### ***And here's a volunteer opportunity...***

Frankford Hospital will participate in a SEPA Regional Emergency Management Exercise scheduled to occur on Wednesday 4-22-09 from 1 PM to 4 PM. They are looking for twenty volunteers for each campus and have three campuses. This is not a SEPA VOAD event but we will be taking volunteer registration for Frankford Hospital.

They will be testing to see how their hospital staff responds to a mass casualty event and also possibly testing their patient decontamination procedures.

Here are the addresses for each campus that will be part of this exercise:

Frankford Hospital Frankford Campus  
4900 Frankford Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19124  
215-831-2000

Parking at the Frankford Campus is free and can be found at Frankford and Wakeling streets in our five level garage. It is located West of Frankford Avenue.

Frankford Hospital Torresdale Campus  
Knights Road and Red Lion Road  
Philadelphia PA 19114  
215-612-4000

Parking at this location is also free. There is a visitor lot and a garage.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Christie Eastburn at EASTBUC@redcross-

philly.org with your name, email, phone and at which campus you would like to volunteer.

Thanks,  
Christie Eastburn  
VOAD Coordinator  
American Red Cross  
Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter  
23rd & Chestnut Streets  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
Tel. 215.299.4218  
Fax 215.299.0498  
christie.eastburn@redcross-philly.org  
[www.redcross-philly.org](http://www.redcross-philly.org)  
[www.sepavoad.org](http://www.sepavoad.org)

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***de charlye-k3cj-k3fi <k3cj@verizon.net>***

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*I was looking for some info about homebrew antennas and stumbled on WB1GFH - Joe Tyburczy's - website. He's an experienced ham and an enjoyable writer on topics ranging from antique radio to glass insulators to his travels abroad. Here's a sample from his article about the "\$4 special antenna" Check out his website at <http://www.qsl.net/wb1gfh/> -ed.*

**"Sure, you can find "all-band wire antennas" for sale in the back pages of Ham magazines costing \$150 or more. But beware: Marconi spins in his grave every time a ham buys an aerial instead of building it. The plain and simple truth is that wire antennas for the HF bands were intended to be hand-made and not store-bought.**

Untold generations of intrepid Radio Hams have fashioned their own equipment out of spit and bailing wire. Do you think the spark-gap dudes of the 1920's just went out and bought ready-built G5RV's from HRO or AES? No way! They slapped together aials out of bedsprings, chewing gum, and frozen cow poop. For them, every day was Field Day. I think that home-built antennas should be awarded 10 db of "honorary gain" simply by virtue of their ingenuity. And in this world of microprocessor controlled micro-rigs, constructing one may be your only chance to build something and actually see it work on the air. Think about it."

***April at PMRC...***

- 1<sup>st</sup>**    **Wed - Board of Directors Meeting**  
**5<sup>th</sup>**    **Sunday – WB3KOJ NCS**  
**8<sup>th</sup>**    **Wed - General Membership Meeting**  
**9<sup>th</sup>**    **Thur - *Passover***  
**12<sup>th</sup>**    **Sunday - WU3I NCS**  
       ***Easter***  
**19<sup>th</sup>**    **Sunday - KB3IV NCS**  
**23<sup>rd</sup>**    **Thur - VE test session**  
**26<sup>th</sup>**    **Sunday – KC3PMW NCS**

And don't forget the **ARES** net every Sunday night at 2100L on the club repeater. Larry, K3HWE, wants to hear from ***you!***

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***A reminder de Chris Brady ...***

Mount Saint Joseph Academy in Flourtown, PA celebrates its 150th Anniversary.

Please look for station "**W1L**" over the weekend of **April 3, 4 and 5th**, as the girls of the Academy operate on 75, 40 and 20 meter SSB, PSK and SSTV, as available. Locally, a simplex operation on 446.000 MHz. FM will be active for calls and coordination on HF.

A CERTIFICATE will be available for those who QSL with the appropriate SASE. QSL to Chris Brady, N3CB, via QRZ information.

*Hearty congratulations to the seven newly - licensed YLs! -ed.*

***First Class Mail***

The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc  
641 Kismet Road Philadelphia PA 19115

*The Blurb*